

WELCOME

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The resurrection

## What's all the fuss about?

---

### CAN I BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION?

---

- Why is the resurrection important?
- Why do I need to believe in the resurrection?

These are the questions many have. The resurrection is highly important to Christianity as a whole. The resurrection is the central point of the Christianity. Everything depends on Christ's resurrection, because without it our physical death would be the end of our lives and our salvation would not be secure.

*"So then, someone must join us as a witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. He must be one of the men who were in our group during the whole time that the Lord Jesus travelled about with us, beginning from the time John preached his message of baptism until the day Jesus was taken up from us to heaven."*

**Acts 1:21-22**

In the passage the disciples are trying to find a replacement for Judas. We can see here that one key criterion in their selection was that the person must have witnessed the resurrection.

*In accordance with his own plan God had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to you; and you killed him by letting sinful men crucify him. But God raised him from death, setting him free from its power, because it was impossible that death should hold him prisoner.*

**Acts 2:23-24**

Here Peter is explaining that death wasn't able to keep Jesus Christ captive, therefore as Christians we are identified with Christ through His death and His resurrection allowing death to not hold us captive.

Paul refers to the resurrection of Jesus fifty times in his letters. These references assert the importance of the resurrection; the assurance it gives us as Christians and the hope of our own future bodily resurrection.

*For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

**Romans 6:5-6**

The resurrection turned (the) catastrophe of Christ's death on the cross into a mighty victory. Because God raised Christ from the dead and He could be proclaimed as the one true Messiah.

*Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.*

**1 Corinthians 12:14**

Without the resurrection, His death would just have been humiliation. But with the resurrection in view it can be seen to be an event by which forgiveness of our sins was obtained and a way where we as sinners can be put right in God's eyes and be able to spend eternity with Him in heaven through Jesus Christ.

## **BURIAL CUSTOMS OF THE JEWS**

---

Not only the rich, but those moderately well off had burial tombs of their own, which were probably acquired and prepared long before they were needed. The tombs were treated and inherited as private and personal property.

In these tombs the bodies were laid having been anointed with many spices such as myrtle, aloes, and at a later period, also with hyssop, rose oil and rose water. The body was dressed and at a later period wrapped, if possible in the worn clothes of the deceased.

There is more evidence about the burial and life of the Lord Jesus Christ than any other character in all of ancient history. There is more known of his burial than we do the burial of any Old Testament character, of any king of Babylon, Pharaoh of Egypt, and any philosopher of Greece or triumphant Caesar.

## **THEORIES ABOUT THE RESURRECTION**

---

Critics of Christ's death and resurrection have come up with a number of theories trying to prove that the resurrection of Christ didn't in fact happen.

Here are a few of the theories:

There is a theory that the disciples had removed the body from the tomb, but we know from scripture that the tomb was guarded for this very reason.

*Give orders, then, for his tomb to be carefully guarded until the third day, so that his disciples will not be able to go and steal the body, and then tell the people that he was raised from death. This last lie would be even worse than the first one." "Take a guard," Pilate told them; "go and make the tomb as secure as you can."*

**Matthew 27:64-65**

The guard would comprise of about 4 soldiers, where one always acted as a sentinel keeping guard while the others rested. If they were to all fall asleep, their punishment would have been death.

The disciples had nothing to gain by lying and starting a new religion if they claimed untruthfully that Christ had risen from the dead. They face hardship, ridicule, hostility and death. Therefore they could have never sustained such motivation about Christ being risen from the dead if it was all a lie.

*Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men. The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you." So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. "Do not be afraid," Jesus said to them. "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

**Matthew 28:2-10**

The Roman soldiers were ruthless men and were cold blooded and heartless enough to gamble over a dead man's clothing so for them to be like "dead men" something must have scared them.

*While the women went on their way, some of the soldiers guarding the tomb went back to the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 The chief priests met with the elders and made their plan; they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers and said, "You are to say that his disciples came during the night and stole his body while you were asleep. And if the Governor should hear of this, we will convince him that you are innocent, and you will have nothing to worry about." The guards took the money and did what they were told to do. And so that is the report spread around by the Jews to this very day*

**Matthew 28:11-15**

We have discussed two options here, either the Roman soldiers stole the body or the disciples did. Both theories fall flat.

There is a third option – That Jesus Christ did rise from the dead.

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

**John 14:6**

## TALK IT OVER

---

- Do you believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead?
- Or do you believe He was a liar?
- The is only one question you need to answer – Who do you believe Jesus Christ is?

*But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

**Matthew 16:15-16**